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Research Paper

Publicly Available Data Resources on the Nonprofit Sector in Canada

1998

by Paul Reed and Valerie Howe

Office of the Senior Social Scientist
20-O R.H. Coats Building, Ottawa K1A 0T6

Telephone: 1 613 951-8217 Fax: 1 613 951-6313

This paper represents the views of the authors and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Statistics Canada.

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A Working Paper

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Statistics Canada and Carleton University

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Contents

1. Introduction
2. Context
3. Methodology
4. Findings
5. Data Resources in the Nonprofit Sector: The Challenge of the Commons
6. Commentary on Data and Information on the Nonprofit Sector
7. Inventory of Public Data Files Relevant to the Nonprofit Sector

One in a series of reports from the Nonprofit Sector Knowledge Base Project.

The authors welcome comments and suggestions: They can be reached at:

Telephone: (613) 951-8217
Facsimile: (613) 951-6313
e-mail: reedpau@statcan.ca

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DISCLAIMER

Views and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect policies or positions of sponsoring organizations.

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1. Introduction

In mid-1997, work was initiated within the Knowledge Base Project of the Nonprofit Sector Research Initiative to locate and document data resources in Canada pertaining to the voluntary sector, particularly those that are publicly available. The rationale was simple: to understand and strengthen the voluntary sector requires a significant (but unspecifiable) quantity of empirical data and information to support generalizations, inferences, decisions, and actions. In a similar fashion to Brian Roadhouse's listing of research activities concerned with the nonprofit sector (Inventory of Canadian Research on the Third Sector) on behalf of the Canadian Policy Research Networks in 1996, our initiative would document generally available or accessible data resources as of 1998.

2. Context

Throughout the 1990s, the voluntary sector has been moving from its backstage place among the institutional components of our society towards a mid-stage position. It occupies an increasing presence in public policy, and in broader public discourse as well. This shift has been fuelled by the impulse of governments everywhere towards downsizing and load-shedding, and by an idealism underlying civic activism. As attention to voluntary organizations, individually and collectively, has grown, public discussions have repeatedly focused on such issues as (i) why the voluntary sector should be taken more seriously (the case has been made almost exclusively in terms of the imputed magnitude of its economic contribution); (ii) ascertaining the ability of the sector to take up tasks conventionally carried out by state institutions and finding ways to increase its capacity; (iii) identifying the character or modus operandi of the sector that distinguishes it from other major parts of our society; (iv) determining the impacts or consequences of the sector's activities and (v) remedying the ever-present challenge of procuring sufficient resources. These issues have in common a need for reliable data that will provide a basis for informed discussion, and as this report will make evident, they have placed in sharp relief the fact that there is a paucity of such data.

3. Methodology

Preparation of this report and data inventory had a dual purpose: to create a guide to data on the voluntary sector that are available for use at modest cost by anyone, and in doing that to construct a picture of the extent of data resources on the sector. Beyond public accessibility at manageable cost, the only other criterion we set was that the data, whether quantitative or qualitative, be of acceptable quality and sufficiently detailed and robust to be capable of useful secondary analysis. Our expectations at the outset were that this cataloguing exercise would cover the nonprofit sector, including its voluntary and charitable subsectors, and would produce an inventory of standardized profiles for perhaps 40-50 data files and thus provide a snapshot of where and how data were being generated and the adequacy of the data relative to recognized data needs. The plan was for the actual files to be procured and placed on the website of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy to facilitate ease of access and use.

The results, as we will show below, turned out to be quite different from expectations.

We carried out a systematic search process, ultimately contacting several hundred organizations and individuals. Many involved repeated contacts to reach the appropriate person and information. Among the broad categories of potential data source were:

- federal and provincial government departments whose responsibilities covered the nonprofit sector, especially its voluntary component or information on it (e.g., HRDC; Canadian Heritage; Citizenship and Immigration; Revenue Canada; Statistics Canada; Ontario Ministry of Citizenship; Culture, and Recreation)

- for-profit opinion research and polling organizations (e.g., Environics; Angus Reid; Goldfarb; Decima; Ekos)

- headquarters of sizable voluntary and charitable organizations (e.g., United Way; Canadian Centre for Philanthropy; Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations; Cancer Society; and others)

- university survey research centres and social science data archive centres (e.g., York University's Institute for Social Research, and Carleton University's Library Data Centre, among others)

- university departments with programs on voluntary sector activities and organizations

- social planning councils in major cities (such as Metro Toronto; Vancouver/BC; Ottawa; Edmonton)

- central offices of religious organizations (e.g., United Church of Canada; Canadian Council of Churches; etc.)

- organizations that are significant users of data (e.g., Canada West Foundation; Canadian Council on Social Development; Canadian Policy Research Networks; Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse; Vanier Institute)

- known researchers in the voluntary sector and other key informants

- websites of potential data-holding organizations, in Canada as well as the U.S.A. and the U.K.

4. Findings

In all, we were able to identify 33 surveys conducted throughout the period 1980-1998 which were either fully concerned with some aspect of the voluntary sector or contained a limited number of questions on specific features (most often, the incidence of volunteering and time spent on it) and resulted in a data file. Many appeared to be of marginal value because they included too few questions to be of much analytical value; in other cases, most often where the data were generated by a private organization, the data were simply not available for general public use because the cost of access was

steep or because the data were proprietary. Of the 33, only 14 could be considered as containing publicly available data capable of supporting secondary analysis. Eleven were produced by Statistics Canada, two by Revenue Canada, and one, the World Values Survey, by a consortium of academic researchers. The important features of these 14 data files are documented in the inventory. Most of the other 19 data files were produced by private survey research companies who would provide analytical services using their data (but not necessarily access to the data *per se*), and usually for sizable fees, ranging above $20,000. Descriptions of most of these files' contents were available only to prospective purchasers, but the majority appeared to have at most a modest quantity of data that would be useful for research on the nonprofit sector.

All of the data files in the inventory are of known, and generally high, statistical quality; all have notably large sample sizes. (The National Registry of Charities by definition constitutes an entire population rather than a sample.) Some of the Statistics Canada public use data files, along with Revenue Canada's Tax Statistics on Individuals, are not portable -- they can only be subjected to statistical analysis as specified by researchers at the holding institution's site. With the exception of the World Values Survey, there is a moderate cost associated with acquisition of each of the data files (or custom tabulations/analysis in cases where the data file is not provided), ranging in most cases from $500 to $2000. Custom tabulations from the Longitudinal Administrative Database start at $2000, the FAMEX data file costs $3000, and custom analyses based on Tax Filer data cost upwards of $4000. Thirteen of the 14 data files pertain to individuals, with only one (the National Register of Charities) containing information on organizations.

The process of compiling an inventory of accessible data files on the nonprofit sector has been instructive. We discovered, beyond the surprising paucity of data, that

- there is a noticeable indifference within the sector to sharing data -- information is exchanged largely via printed reports of findings from a survey, but not the data *per se*.

- while there have been occasional joint efforts to produce studies on topics of immediate concern within the sector, there has been almost no collaboration to create and make available data of broad, general interest.

- in a number of instances, a data file that had been created either could not be found or made available because no individual(s) or organization(s) considered themselves as having custodial responsibility for it, and/or the data were unusable because the requisite supporting documentation could not be located.

In sum, the prevailing ethos appeared to be one of organizations and individuals seeing themselves as consumers of data and information, with a minimal sense of obligation to actively support its production, distribution, or archival stewardship. Except where data or information directly and specifically served an organization's purposes, there was disinterest and occasionally even a competitive disinclination to act in concert to create data as a common resource. The tight resource situation of most nonprofit sector organizations explains this only in part.

5. Data Resources in the Nonprofit Sector: The Challenge of the Commons

The inventory presents clear evidence of an extremely small corpus of publicly available data in the charitable and voluntary component of the nonprofit sector. This paucity of data resources may be due to the absence of any single organization with the requisite funds, skills, experience, vision, and understanding of the sector to generate, analyze, and disseminate data, or to the general absence of an awareness in the sector that data and information are a strategic common resource. Just as in earlier times where the wellbeing of communities was closely tied to the effective creation and management of "commons" (such as shared grazing lands), there needs to be a recognition throughout the sector of a fundamental need for a data and information commons or infrastructure in the form of a comprehensive and ongoing set of activities that will, over time, create a coherent body of information resources for the sector. This commons may be achieved by pooling resources and energies among organizations within the sector to undertake the task, or by procuring resources externally to commission one or two large organizations to carry out the work. Perhaps a combination of the two is what is needed. More important than how it is to be achieved is the imperative to recognize that such an endeavour will benefit

Canadian society as a whole, as well as the voluntary sector and many of its constituent organizations together.

6. Commentary on Data and Information on the Nonprofit Sector

Notwithstanding the Sector's small data infrastructure, it is not entirely devoid of quantitative information. We determined that it would be in the public interest to offer a general commentary on the characteristics and sources of this information.

In order to best map the areas where there are deep lodes of information, where there are thin veins, and where there is a paucity of information, it is helpful to organize the available material in terms of the main actors and activities within the sector. For this purpose, we identified 9 subject areas on the sector. This allows potential information users to compare the possible areas of information to the subjects upon which information actually is generated and is publicly available.

The topics we selected for commentary were the following:

(a) The sector as a whole; its dimensions and profile, its size, productivity, resources and role;

(b) The organizations which make up the sector; their distinctive characteristics, common features and diversity; their budgets, activities, structure and cultures;

(c) Governments at all levels; governments as funders, as regulators and policy setters; and as information gatherers and disseminators;

(d) Individuals who volunteer for sector organizations; types of volunteer work; its quantity and value; issues around volunteering and volunteer management;

(e) Individuals who donate money to sector organizations; factors which contribute to donating behaviour; trends in donating; use of donated funds; categories of donations;

(f) Corporate or group volunteering or the promotion of volunteering by employees; incentives or rewards for volunteering; efforts to encourage corporate voluntary activity;

(g) Corporate or group donating or the promotion of donating by employees; efforts to encourage corporate donating including tax measures;

(h) The society - especially social needs and resources; demographic, social and cultural trends which impact on needs, and on behaviours such as volunteering and donating; support for the sector and its organizations; informal care-giving;

(i) Communities – needs and resources; community audits; demographic, economic and other factors which shape the role of sector organizations within given communities; (Community foundations and organizations may be seen here as intermediaries).

A. The Sector

The principal source on the shape of the sector is the database of tax returns of registered charities maintained by the Charities Division of Revenue Canada. This is, of course, only a moderately adequate proxy for the sector as a whole.[1] As of 1993, Revenue Canada required non-charitable non-profits also to file an annual return (form T1044) but only a small number had filed as of 1996 (approximately 5,000), whereas organizations in this category are believed to be almost as numerous as registered charities. (Day and Devlin, 1997; Quarter, 1992). Data from these returns is not made public at this time although Day and Devlin (1997) did examine and report on some aggregate data.

[1] To be registered as a charity an organization must provide benefits or services which fit into a set of categories and must not devote more than 20% of its revenues to activities other than providing those benefits. The registration process is long and organizations which fit this description may not apply for status if they are not soliciting donations or if they can provide tax-exemption on the basis of a related organization's registered charity status.

As Sharpe (1994) and Day and Devlin (1997) have documented, the Revenue Canada data on registered charities suffer from a number of problems: charities are only assigned one category although they may operate in several fields; they are categorized as they specified when first becoming a registered charity regardless of changes; foundations are included with other charities which means that money which flows through foundations could be counted twice; the categories are out of date, with none for environmental organizations, for example, so that more than half are listed in the residual "other" category. Furthermore, many organizations do not complete all of the information, some do not file regularly, and many provide information which contains arithmetic errors.

By default if not by plan, the role of Revenue Canada in granting charitable status has significantly shaped the way in which the nonprofit sector is defined. Beyond the many human services organizations, the sector is normally considered to include religious organizations, hospitals, universities, culture, arts, and heritage organizations, all of which are charities but not to include, for example, most political or advocacy groups or co-operatives. While unregistered charitable organizations may generally be considered part of the sector, we know little about them given the nature of publicly available data. Many of these may be grassroots or informal groups with specific concerns; they may seek information or attempt to influence community decisions or provide community resources or services. Some are self-help groups such as groups of people who share a common circumstance or difficulty such as single parenthood or an illness. Generally, the sector is understood in terms of organizations, and the organizations about which we have information are registered charities. Still. it is important to be mindful of the fact that the sector is not reducible to organizations. As Day and Devlin say, the sector includes formal non-profits as well as myriad everyday informal entities and activities. However, we rely largely on government records of formal organizations.

B. Nonprofit Organizations

For nonprofit organizations which are registered charities, a key source of data is the National Register of Charities maintained by the Charities Division of Revenue Canada. In addition to lists of charities and listings by subject areas and geographical areas, it is possible to order custom tables of

aggregate data on revenues, expenditures and other economic data as well as the number of volunteers and hours of volunteer labour, the number of staff, and total remuneration. Statistics Canada regularly publishes statistics on two sub-sectors of non-profits: hospitals and universities.

The sector is so amorphously unbounded that there is no easy way to list, and therefore to survey, all organizations within it. This is further compounded by the fact that the identity of the sector and the type of organizations which comprise it is itself a matter of disagreement. (Hirshhorn, 1997; Quarter, 1992) One research approach has been to attempt to survey charitable organizations by soliciting the cooperation of Revenue Canada to mail a questionnaire to all registered charities on its list, this approach has been used by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy (Sharpe, 1994). Unfortunately, their rate of useable responses was only about six percent. Another approach has been to mail a survey to all members of the Coalition National Voluntary Organizations, the main umbrella organization of voluntary groups (Thayer-Scott, 1989). Other studies focus on organizations on the funding list of a particular Ministry (Rekart, 1995) or those within one city or region such as those which have been conducted by Social Planning Councils in Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver.

Nonprofit organizations outside the spheres of charity and social service may be more neatly categorized and a listing, if not detailed information, is sometimes easier to find. For example, Jack Quarter (1992) who sought to document the social economy in Canada, accessed data on co-operatives and credit unions from the federal government annual publication, Canadian Cooperatives: Resource File and data on housing co-operatives from the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada. Information on public and private foundations is published in the Canadian Directory to Foundations by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and information on associations in Associations Canada published by Canadian Almanac & Directory Publishing. Foundations includes public foundations such as those funded by provincial lotteries, such as Ontario's Trillium Foundation; private foundations established by wealthy families; community foundations, which are becoming more active in several large Canadian cities; corporate foundations, such as Bombardier's; and foundations which support specific nonprofit institutions such as hospitals or the Children's Aid Society.

Associations are mutual-benefit nonprofits which serve their members, such as professional, trade, business and union associations, and those with academic, public interest or social movement and/or social purposes such as the Canadian Legion and service clubs. As Quarter (1992: 83-6) argues, many of these member-based organizations are political as well as social movements who seek to benefit more than their members and therefore straddle the fields of member-based and public service elements within the nonprofit sector. This group includes environmental, peace, civil rights, feminist, safety associations and those which support and advocate for segments of the society such as seniors. As most are not registered charities, we know very little about their composition The over-lap between this category and Revenue Canada's new data on non-charitable non-profits who are to file T1044 forms is not yet clear, although many non-charitable non-profits are member-service organizations.

Most museums and heritage institutions and many cultural groups and organizations, theatres and performing arts groups, and amateur recreational and sports groups are non-profit organizations and a number are also registered charitable organizations and some may be non-charitable non-profits. Statistics Canada produces annual published data on cultural organizations, museums, and heritage institutions[2] and the Canada Council and Canadian Council on the Arts produce occasional reports. As well, the 1992 General Social Survey has extensive data on cultural and sports participation[3] of various forms. Individual churches have some information on their membership and there may also be material produced by the Canadian Council of Churches as well as the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches produced in Nashville. Professor Reginald Bibby (University of Lethbridge) has performed a number of surveys of church members including a 1994 survey of United Church members published in the report Unitrends.

C. Governments

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[2] Terminological problems continue as many of these may have charitable status although we may not normally think of them as charities.

[3] The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation sponsored a survey of Volunteers in Sports, Fitness and Recreation in 1994 but we were unable to locate a report.

a) Governments as Funders

i) Overall Government Funding on Social Programs

Government publications provide a range of annual aggregate information on expenditures. For example, the 1998-99 Estimates of the Federal Government provide Departmental breakdowns indicating that the Department of Citizen and Immigration provided grants of approximately $118 million for Promoting the Integration of Newcomers. In theory, reported data such as that from the Expenditures could be compared over several years to ascertain trends in spending; in practice the frequency of program and departmental changes make such comparison problematic. In fact, the data on federal expenditures in CANSIM, the main Statistics Canada database, warns: "due to continuous changes in legislation, accounting policies, and reporting policies, it is impossible to compare year over year figures. Each fiscal year should be viewed independently." Similar data, and similar problems are available at the provincial level. The province of Ontario now posts its Public Accounts, including annual total expenditures on social services, on its web-page, (www.gov.on.ca). Reports from the Auditor General of Canada and the Provincial Auditors provide occasional commentary on spending patterns. The Canada Yearbook provides miscellaneous statistics including some information on employment and salaries within the social services. The 1997 Canada Yearbook includes a 10-year table of consolidated federal, provincial, territorial, and local government revenue and expenditures, by category, from 1985-6 to 1994-5 as well as the federal totals and those for all provinces.

As an example, for her study Public Funds, Private Provision, (1995), Jacqueline Rekart investigated the use of expenditures and published Public Accounts data from the British Columbia government. She found that only one Ministry's published data distinguished between services which the Ministry provided directly and those which they contracted out to nonprofit sector organizations. Even for that Ministry, she found the data difficult to unravel as programs moved and responsibilities shifted (p.64). She concluded that the contextual data needed to make sense of the raw data and to analyse the impacts of government policies was not easily accessible.

ii) Funding to Nonprofit Organizations

As the above suggests, most of the information on funding to the social services is aggregated in ways which restrict the value of the information. It is difficult to determine from publicly available government information on funding by departments or levels of government what proportion of the funding flows to nonprofit organizations and even more difficult to determine how much of that revenue is in the form of grants as opposed to contracts for provision of specified versions.

b) Government Policy

In addition to media reports on government policy, two relatively new sources are available. Some government departments are now posting policy notices, changes to tax legislation and other information directly on their websites. The Revenue Canada site and the websites of the province of Ontario are two examples. As well, a number of intermediary organizations within the sector publish newsletters or bulletins with updates on policy changes and discuss possible implications or actual impacts on organizations within the sector. A number of these also offer information on websites.

c) Government Sources of Data

The Inventory in this report lists the 14 data files on the sector where data or custom analyses are publicly available. All but one of these are government data sources. Only direct tax information is available without charge or for minimal cost from Revenue Canada; most of the data based on surveys or on manipulation of administrative data are available from Statistics Canada on a cost-recovery basis.

Also, many of the Statistics Canada surveys are available to the university community without fee as a result of the Data Liberation Initiative. The index for the data library initiative is at the University of Alberta (Search datalib.library.ualberta). Requests for information can be posted to members of the Data Liberation Initiative (primarily university data librarians) at: CAPDU@majordomo.srv.ualberta.ca.

Through this website, as well as via some other member universities one can access the Institute for the Consortium on Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in the U.S.

D. Individual Volunteers

The 1997 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, together with the 1987 Voluntary Activity Survey, greatly increase the scope of national, representative information on Canadians who volunteer. It is now possible to compare the characteristics of volunteering in 1997 with those that existed a decade earlier, and for the first time to trace the connections between giving, volunteering and participating on a national scale.

E. Individual Donors

Annual tax data from individual tax returns is a primary source of information on national patterns of donating. Canadians can deduct donations to registered charities from their taxable income if they submit receipts. Therefore, these data are only for donations to registered charities; and only those donations for which receipts are given and which citizens retained and submitted. Comparison to other sources of information on donations, such as those from the National Survey on Giving Volunteering and Participating and aggregate donations data provided by Registered Charities, indicates that only about half of receiptable donations by individuals are claimed on tax returns. Revenue Canada produces standard tables (available from their website at www.rc.gc.ca) indicating the total number of donations and the total dollar amount of allowed donations for all taxfilers and for all who claimed a deduction, and also the number and dollar amount of donations for different age groups, income groups, and provinces. From this source, Statistics Canada creates two data files . The Charitable Donors data file allows researchers to purchase custom tables by geographic areas as small as postal codes and postal walks and to calculate average donations for different types of donors. A brief summary will normally appear in the Statistics Canada publication, The Daily, each year when the most recent year's data are released.

The Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD) is a more complex and more expensive longitudinal data file based on linking tax returns to census data for the same individuals and households. It is possible to order data covering groups of donors which would show their family, income, and employment structure, or to track the changes which life events, such as divorce, make to donating over time. Unfortunately, cost is an obstacle to other than rare access to this data set.

Another important and under-utilized source of information on Canadian donors and their income, spending, and life-style characteristics is Statistics Canada's Family Expenditures Survey (FAMEX). This biennial survey asks about all household expenditures in minute detail as well as such details as home tenure; sources of income; financial assets; and occupation as well as contributions to charitable organizations (religious and other), and money given to support non-household members and other gifts. Unfortunately, in the published catalogue, donations to organizations, gifts, and support payments are aggregated into one category. However, custom tabulations or analyses can be ordered.

The 1997 National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating provides the first opportunity to gain, without great cost, significant background information on donors, to learn of their motivations, their early life experiences, their volunteer and participation activities, and other characteristics.

F. Corporate Support for Volunteering and Community Action

The primary and probably sole source of information on this subject is the Conference Board of Canada. Their Canadian Centre for Business in the Community surveys Conference Board members from time to time. The data are used to produce reports to members and, occasionally, to researchers (Day and Devlin, 1997).

G. Corporate Donations

Although Revenue Canada prepares a database of corporate donors, based on claims for tax deductions, as it does of individual donors, no tax data are published. Revenue Canada will make data available to researchers as agreed (Day & Devlin, 1997).

The Conference Board of Canada, Canadian Centre for Business in the Community survey and surveys of organizations are principal sources of information on corporate donations but data are not publicly accessible.

H. Canadian Society

The contents of Statistics Canada's annual General Social Surveys are rotated in cycles with topics related to areas such as victimization, friends and family, or time use, being repeated, with variations, every five years. This allows for the possibility of tracking selected social dynamics over time. For example, a survey on time use was conducted in 1987 and in 1992 and planned again for 1999 . This would make it possible to compare measures of time spent volunteering over the three time spans and to chart how other time pressures and family dynamics impact on time spent volunteering. A number of the General Social Surveys, including the Time Use Survey and Family and Friends in 1990 and 1995 as well as the 1996 Census, ask about unpaid work and informal caregiving. While these surveys provide some detail as to the type of help provided to others, they generally do not distinguish whether or not that help is provided to family members or non-members. The 1996 GSS is the first survey to focus on Help and Social Support and it provides a particularly rich set of information on informal care-giving and social support given and received and about social networks. This survey does distinguish between help given inside or outside the household. As we noted earlier, Statistics Canada's annual General Social Surveys are accessible through some Data Liberation sites at no cost as well as from Statistics Canada directly for a fee.

The World Values Surveys (1981 and 1990) provide a unique opportunity to compare volunteering in Canada to that in other countries and to examine international trends. In the data file,

volunteers are identified as well as the category of organization for which they volunteer, the reasons for volunteering, and the relative importance of each reason.

I. Communities

Assessments of the social needs of communities have been conducted for some time generally by community organizations or coalitions of organizations which come together for this purpose. More recent social audits often intend not only to identify needs but also to assess capacities and opportunities for common projects to address community needs with community assets. The Social Planning Councils of a number of cities have undertaken community audits and several have also conducted surveys or studies of voluntary organizations within their domain. The results are generally available as reports; data files for secondary analysis appear to be unavailable.

Gaps, Issues, and Problems with the Available Information

Starting points for this investigation were discussions with some of the key Canadian researchers and consumers of information on the sector and a review of recent literature. These discussions and readings alerted us to the small number of sources of information which are generally relied upon, and to the fact that the available information was concentrated in only a few subject areas. Naturally enough, information of central necessity, such as information relevant to management in the sector, is better represented as are studies of the overall size and economic contribution of the sector. There is a notable lack of detailed data on corporate contributions and it is difficult to relate the existing aggregate data to the life and struggles of particular segments of the sector or of particular communities. We know little of the infrastructure which links those individual organizations, of the role of intermediary organizations, networks and partnerships. We know little of the ecology of communities and how nonprofit mobilization works to knit communities together, to serve as sites of social experimentation and innovation, or to warn of, and sometimes fend off, impending social problems.

Although we spoke with or contacted several hundred informants, they told us that they drew upon only a small number of sources of information. Information on the sector can generally be traced back to a handful of key organizations, including Statistics Canada, Revenue Canada, Heritage Canada, and the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy. Other organizational sources are the Social Planning Councils in several cities, Volunteer Canada, Volunteer Vancouver, and the Charity Village web site.

Some of these institutions, such as Statistics Canada or survey organizations, play a central role in creating information; others, such as the Charity Village web site, are diffusers of information. Only a small handful play an important role across the spectrum of creating, analyzing, and disseminating information. The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy has recently augmented their participation in dissemination by posting, on their web site, a catalogue of on-going research initiatives. A number of useful reports have been produced and shared through conferences and publications.

What is lacking, and what we had hoped to find, is a pool of publicly available data files which may have been produced for one agency and which had been or could be made available for other researchers to conduct further analysis . Currently, the pattern is for one organization to serve as the originator of a given survey or study and while other organizations may participate, rarely is there a combined purpose or research program. Most importantly the sector is not building a base of broadly useful data which is comparable across time, which various researchers can freely access, and which can be returned to when new questions or issues arise. Each time there is a need to respond to a policy challenge or a research question, the response is likely to be to begin again with a one-time study.

In 1997, the Canadian Policy Research Networks convened a Roundtable on its Nonprofit Sector Research Project. In *The Emerging Sector*, a report of the Roundtable discussions, Judith Maxwell lamented that still "little is known of the size, complexity or diversity of the formal or informal activities that comprise the sector". A common theme of the Roundtable discussions was the pressing need for further data development and research. The Roundtable discussion also noted that consideration must be given to who should, or will, pay for the needed information. Government information is increasingly likely to be available only on a 'user pay' basis and pressure for Revenue Canada to

increase its information-filing requirements of registered charitable organizations might lead to increased pressure on those organizations which could be a drain on scarce resources. Only with a widely shared conviction that publicly available data and information are important, and commitment to a shared vision regarding how to create and distribute such data, will the present mold of organizational individualism be broken.

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Inventory of Public Data Files Relevant to the Nonprofit Sector

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION:

TITLE:	**1989 General Social Survey - Education and Work (Cycle 4)**
DATE:	1989
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT	Statistics Canada, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Client Services and Dissemination, *(613) 951-5979.*
AVAILABILITY	*$750* for Public Use Data File.
FORMAT:	ASCII Flat File or SAS
MEDIA:	Electronic or print (microdata file, publications, special tabulations)
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom tables and analyses can be ordered.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Representative of the national adult population, age *15* years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.
FILE SIZE:	10,000 persons
DESIGN.	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling.
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted).

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION:

TITLE:	**1989 General Social Survey - Education and Work (Cycle 4)**
DATE:	1989
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT:	Statistics Canada, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Client Services and Dissemination, *(613) 951-5979.*
AVAILABILITY:	*$750* for Public Use Data File.
FORMAT:	ASCII Flat File or SAS
MEDIA:	Electronic or print (microdata file, publications, special tabulations)
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom tables and analyses can be ordered.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Representative of the national adult population, age *15* years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.
FILE SIZE:	10,000 persons
DESIGN:	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling.
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted).

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO NONPROFIT SECTOR:

The core content for this GSS cycle concerns long-term trends in education and employment, such as computer use and continuing learning, and not for nonprofit sector issues such as volunteer time. However, in this first version of the education and work cycle there were a set of questions, under the heading organizations, which are relevant. Respondents were asked whether they were involved in each of the following type of association:

- charitable, service or volunteer
- neighbourhood, community or school-related
- religious or church-related
- social, cultural, or ethnic
- sports or athletic
- public interest (e.g., peace, environmental)
- business, professional, or work related

Those who were involved in each category of organization were asked how many hours per month they devote to that activity on average.

As well, respondents were asked whether they belonged to a labour union and, if so, how much time they spent on union activities. Retired persons who say that they enjoy life more since retirement were asked whether the main reason for this is because they have: more leisure time, more travel, more time with family, or more time for volunteer activities.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

People were asked different questions depending on whether they were enrolled in an education program, working, unemployed, or retired.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Two Statistics Canada documents were published with a focus on work in the service sector and computers but they contained no data from the questions on organizational participation.

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION:

TITLE:	**1990 General Social Survey - Family and Friends (Cycle 5)**
DATE:	1990
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEY/MANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT	Statistics Canada, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Client Services and Dissemination, (613) 951-5979.
AVAILABILITY:	$750 for Public Use Data File.
FORMAT.	*ASCII* Flat File; *SAS* or SPSS versions may be requested.
MEDIA:	Electronic data file on disk or CD Rom.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom tables and analyses can be ordered on a cost recovery basis.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Representative of the national adult population, age *15* years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.
FILE SIZE:	*13,500* persons
DESIGN.	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling.
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted).

C. CONTENT:

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO NONPROFIT SECTOR:

This survey provides considerable information on informal helping, especially concerning the number of times people provided unpaid services to various family members or to church, school or other organizations. Questions deal with whether, and how often, people provided unpaid housework, maintenance or transportation to others outside the home; the frequency of help provided to: son; daughter; parent; brother/sister; other relative; friend; church; school; organization/other; whether volunteered; how often volunteered; various forms of care provided to and received from others. This allows for examination of the relationship between informal giving, helping through an organization, giving to a church and such contextual factors as satisfaction with the balance between work and family life or relationships.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

How often people received care and provided it to various family members.

Connections with family and friends.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES,:

Statistics Canada. Family and Friends. August 1994. (GSS Analysis Series 11-612E, No.9) ($40 Canada/ US $48)

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**1992 General Social Survey - Time Use (Cycle 7)**
DATE:	1992
SURVEY MANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION.	Statistics Canada; Data Liberation Sites
CONTACT.	Statistics Canada, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Client Services and Dissemination, (613) *951-5979*
AVAILABILITY:	Public Use Data File at a cost of *$750*
FORMAT:	*ASCII* Flat File; *SAS* or SPSS may be ordered
MEDIA:	Electronic or print (microdata file, publications, special tabulations)
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom tabulations can be ordered

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION.	Representative of the national adult population, age *15* years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.
FILE SIZE:	*10, 000*
DESIGN:	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling.
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted).

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

This General Social Survey is a good source of information on different types of informal help provided, as well as time spent volunteering, and allowing for consideration of the effect of other time pressures and life circumstances on time spent in informal helping activities.

Variables include: hours spent providing help of the following types: writing letters, filling out forms or solving problems; help with a business or far; providing personal care to someone ill or disabled; providing help with mobility, transportation or shopping; looking after someone else's children; house maintenance or repairs; other unpaid help; and volunteer work. The impact of various sociodemographic characteristics can be determined.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS.

Employment, work schedule, educational cultural and recreational activities.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Frederick, Judith. As Time Goes By Time Use of Canadians. Statistics Canada Catalogue 89-544E.

Frederick, Judith. Comparison of Results from the General Social Survey on Time Use - 1986 and 1992. Statistics Canada Working Paper #11 December 1993.

Paille, Bernie. 1994. Estimating the Volume of Unpaid Activities in Canada, 1992: An Evaluation of Data from the General Social Surveys. General Social Survey of Working Paper #10, Statistics Canada.

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**1994 General Social Survey - Education, Work and Retirement (Cycle 9)**
DATE:	1994
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada and Health Canada.
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT:	Statistics Canada, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Client Services and Dissemination, *(613) 951-5979*
AVAILABILITY:	*$1,500* for Public Use Data File
FORMAT:	*ASCII* Flat File or *SAS*.
MEDIA:	Electronic or print (microdata file, publications, special tabulations)
CUSTOMDATA:	Custom tables analyses can be ordered.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Representative of the national adult population, age *15* years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.
FILE SIZE:	*11,500* persons (10,000 in the main sample and an additional 1,500 respondents aged 55 to *74).*
DESIGN:	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling.
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted).

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

This GSS cycle repeats the "core" questions from Cycle 4, the 1989 survey on the same topic but not the "focus" questions on organizations for which people volunteered. As a result only 2 questions on volunteering remain. One asks for the number of hours volunteered during the preceding 7 days, the other asks retired persons who say that they enjoy life more whether the main reason for this is because they have: more leisure time, more travel, more time with family, or more time for volunteer activities. Since the questions on participation in organizations of various types are not repeated, ti is not possible to update the information on volunteering and participating from the 1989 Cycle 4 General Social Survey.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS.-

People were asked different questions depending on whether they were enrolled in an education program, working, unemployed, or retired. For retired persons the focus in this cycle is on jobs held since retirement, reasons for return to the labour market and working conditions.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**1996 General Social Survey - Help and Social Support (Cycle 11)**
DATE:	1996
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada and Health Canada
SURYEYMANAGER	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT:	Statistics Canada, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Client Services and Dissemination, *(613) 951-5979*
AVAILABILITY:	*$1,600* Canada for Public Use Data File to be available in *1999.*
FORMAT:	*ASCII* Flat File or *SAS* or SPSS versions may be requested.
MEDIA:	Electronic data file on disk or DC Rom.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Once the data is available, researchers will be able to order custom tables and analyses on a cost-recovery basis.

C. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION	Representative of the national adult population, age 15 years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.
FILE SIZE:	*10,000* persons
DESIGN:	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted)

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

There is a wealth of new information on informal care-giving and social support given and received. Respondents were selected who either gave or received social support. The focus is on help given or received during `temporary *difficult times*' such as a pregnancy or illness, or due to long-term health or physical limitations in daily activities. The data indicate whether the help was given to someone inside or outside the household. Questions also ask about caregivers' and receivers' social networks and indicate the nature and frequency of help provided and received and unmet needs and reasons for the unmet needs. The survey also provides some data on the support, to caregivers, provided by agencies. For example, one question asks whether assistance is provided by any public agency, private agency, or not-for-profit agency. As well, there are questions about the motivations and frustrations associated with care giving.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

Those who receive and provide care were asked about their paid and unpaid work, health indicators and demographic information.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**1998 General Social Survey - Time Use (Cycle 12)**
DATE:	1998-9
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT	Statistics Canada, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Client Services and Dissemination, *(613) 951-5979*
AVAILABILITY:	$1,600 for Public Use Data File to be available in *1999.*
FORMAT:	ASCII Flat File; SAS or SPSS versions may be requested
MEDIA:	Electronic data file on disk or CD Rom.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Once the data is available, researchers will be able to order custom tables and analyses on a cost-recovery basis.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Representative of the national adult population, age *15* years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.
FILE SIZE:	*10,000* persons
DESIGN:	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling.
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted)

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO NONPROFIT SECTOR:

This is a repeat of the topic covered in the 1992 General Social Survey (Cycle S) with many similar questions on different types of informal help provided, as well as time spent volunteering. This allows analysis of the effect of other time pressures and life circumstances on time spent in informal helping activities. However, this version of the time use survey also asks about different types of formal volunteering. Specifically, it provides information on how many people volunteered through a group or organization and whether they did: fundraising, provided information, organized activities, did administrative work or acted on a board or committee, provided care, delivered food or goods, did maintenance, performed fire-fighting or similar services, or other activities.

Another important difference from the 1992 survey is that the former distinguishes between child care and similar unpaid work done for one's one family and that done for others, while the '1998 survey does not make that distinction.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

Employment, work schedule, educational, cultural and recreational activities.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**National Population Health Survey**
DATE:	Biennial since 1994-95
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada, also available through the Data Liberation Initiative at universities across Canada
CONTACT:	Client Custom Services Unit, Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Tel (613) 951-1746
AVAILABILITY	Public use microdata files from the cross-sectional and longitudinal files of Cycles 1 (1994-95) and 2 (1996-97) for both the Household and Health Care Institutions components are available.
FORMAT:	Flat ASCII file
MEDIA:	Cycle 1 Household data are available on diskette or CD-ROM. Cycle 1 Institutions data are available on diskette only. Cycle 2 data are available on CD-ROM only.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom tabulations from both cycles and both components are available; the minimum charge for this service is $350.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	The target populations are: 1) household residents in all provinces, except populations on Indian reserves, Canadian Forces Bases and some remote areas in Ontario and Quebec; 2) long-term residents expected to stay longer than six months in health care institutions with four beds or more in all provinces (excluding the Territories); 3) the Northern population including household residents in the Territories, except populations on Indian reserves, Canadian Forces Bases and some of the most remote areas of the Territories.

FILE SIZE:

The Cycle 1 Household sample consisted of 27,263 households, of which 88.7% agreed to participate; ultimately, responses to in depth health questions were obtained from 17,626 respondents. Of these, 17,626 were eligible for re-interview in Cycle 2 and 15,670 provided full information. For cross-sectional purposes only, additional respondents were surveyed in Cycle 2, resulting in a total number of responses to in-depth health questions from 81,804 persons.

For the Institutions component, approximately 230 health institutions were randomly selected from provincial lists of hospitals and residential care facilities and a subsequent sample of 2,444 long-term residents was then taken.

DESIGN:

The household and territorial components collect most of the information from one randomly selected household member, but demographic, socio-economic and basic health-related information from all other members of the household is also collected.

METHOD:

Computer-assisted interviewing. Cycle 1 interviews were primarily done in person at the selected dwellings. Data for subsequent cycles are mainly by telephone. Persons in the longitudinal panel will be re-interviewed over a period of 20 years.

C. CONTENT

Two areas in the NPHS data are of interest to the nonprofit or voluntary sector. The first are responses to three questions in the Social Support section: "Are you a member of any voluntary organizations or associations such as school groups, church, social groups, community centres, ethnic associations or social, civic or fraternity clubs?" (SSC6_1); "How often did you participate in meetings or activities of these groups in the past 12 months? If you belong to many, just think of the ones in which you are most active" - with possible responses "At least once week, at least once a month, at least 3 or 4 times a year, at least once a year, or not at all" (SSC6_2); and "Other than on special occasions (such as weddings, funerals or baptisms), how often did you attend religious services or religious meetings in the past 12 months?" - with the same possible responses as the previous question (SSC6_2A).

The second area of interest relates to elder care, both in the home and in institutions. While the NPHS does not have data on private home care nor on informal care, analysis is possible for governmentsupported home care by combining socio-economic, demographic and health status data from the household survey. A comparison of household data with responses from residents of institutions permits analysis of the trade-offs between institutional and home care.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

For general information about the NPHS, see:

- Tamblay J-L and Catlin G., "Sample design in the National Population Health Survey," *Health Reports*, 1995, 7(1), pp. 29-38 (Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-003).
- Swain, Larry, Gary Catlin and Marie P. Beaudet, "The National Population Health Survey - its longitudinal nature,", *Health Reports*, 1999, 10 (4), pp. 69-82 (Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-003).
- *National Population Health Survey Overview*, 1994-95 and idem, 1996-97 (Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-567, available in paper or downloadable from Statistics Canada's website).
- *National Population Health Survey - General Information* and Product and *Services*, Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82F0068XIE.

Two published analyses on elder care based on NPHS data are:

- Wilkins, Kathryn and Marie P. Beaudet, "Changes in social support in relation to seniors' use of home care," *Health Reports, 11* (4), pp. 39-47 (Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-003).
- Trottier, Helen, Laurent Martel, Christian Houle, Jean-Marie Bertholet and Jacques Legare, "Living at home or in an institution: What makes the difference for seniors?", *Health Reports, 11* (4), pp. 4961 (Statistics Canada Cat. No. 82-003).

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**Survey of Volunteer Activity**
DATE:	1987
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEY MANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT	Statistics Canada, Income Statistics Division, Services Dissemination Unit (613) 951-7355 or (888) 297-7355.
AVAILABILITY:	A Public Use Data File is available.
FORMAT	ASCII flat file.
MEDIA	Electronic data file on disk or CD-Rom.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom tables and analyses can be ordered on a cost recovery basis.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Representative of the national adult population, 15 years and older, in private households in the 10 provinces.
FILE SIZE:	11,000 volunteers plus 15,000 non-volunteers
DESIGN:	Representative of the national adult population, 15 years and older, in private households in the ten provicnes.
METHOD:	Mail.

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

This is the first major national survey of volunteers in Canada. Data about volunteers and their relations with organizations is in **The Volunteer File.** This has responses to 10 questions about the motivations for volunteering and concerns the volunteer may have and 23 questions about the volunteer's relations with up to 3 organizations to which the volunteer gives time. For several indicators data can be compared with that from the 1997 National Survey on Giving, Volunteering and Participating.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

A data file called **The Person File** contains responses to the screening questionnaire. This telephone questionnaire (administered Oct. 1987; N. 37,426) identifies non-volunteers, volunteers and ceased volunteers; why they ceased; asks about informal helping - helped who, doing what; and about health and how busy. Linking to the Labour Force Survey could provide many employment characteristics.

The **Organization File** contains all information for the 19,500 organizations identified by the 11,000 volunteers. Thus a person who volunteered for 2 organizations would have 2 organization records with the same personal characteristics. Custom runs of data can be ordered for groups of organizations, such as health or law related and for sub-groups, such as those dealing with specific health problems or types of offenders. In addition beneficiary/client codes were used to identify the age/sex and social characteristics of the organization's beneficiaries. A list of these 3 categories is available in the User Guide for the VAS. All data on organizations is subject to limits on release if the sample is so small that confidentiality could be compromised.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Federal Department of Secretary of State: Series of profiles on selected topics such as: employment and educations status of volunteers; youth, seniors and women as volunteers; informal volunteering, volunteers by province and by category of organization. (Some are out of print) Contact: Don McRae, 994-5445, Voluntary Action section, Citizenship and Canadian Identity, Canadian Heritage.

Statistics Canada: Giving Freely: Volunteers in Canada (out of print but available at Statistics Canada library).

Ross, David and Richard Shillington: A Profile of the Canadian Volunteer: A Guide to the Volunteer Survey, Ottawa: National Voluntary Organization.

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating**
DATE:	1997
SPONSOR:	The National Survey Consortium (Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, Canadian Heritage, Health Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, The Kahanoff Foundation's Nonprofit Sector Research Initiative, Statistics Canada and Volunteer Canada)
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT:	Statistics Canada, Income Statistics Division, Services Dissemination Unit *(613) 951-7355* or *(888) 297-7355.*
AVAILABILITY:	*$1,600* for Public Use Data File.
FORMAT:	*ASCII* flat file.
MEDIA:	Electronic data file on disk or CD-Rom.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom tables and analyses can be ordered on a cost recovery basis.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Representative of the national adult population, age *15* years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.

FILE SIZE:	*35,787* households with one individual respondent in each; of whom *19, 274* were volunteers and/or charitable donors.
DESIGN.-	Representative, cross-sectional, multi-stage probability sampling. This survey is a supplement to the November *1997* Labour Force Survey.
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted).

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

This is the first major national survey to focus on donating, volunteering, and participating and also the first to allow assessment of the linkages among the three behaviours. Subjects covered include: formal and informal giving; formal and informal volunteering; organizations volunteered for; reasons for volunteering; benefits; employer support; reasons for not volunteering more; social and civic participation; motivations, youth experiences, attitudes, social and economic circumstances.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

Standard socio-economic classification variables.

In addition it is possible to order computations linking these data to those from the Labour Force Survey. Custom analyses can be ordered for groups of organizations, such as health or law related and for sub-groups, such as those dealing with specific health problems or types of offenders. Donating and volunteering could be tracked according to the organization type. All data on organizations are subject to limits on release if the sample is so small that confidentiality could be compromised.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Hall, M., T. Knighton, P. Reed, P. Bussiere, D. McRae and P. Bowen. Caring Canadians, Involved Canadians: Highlights from the *1997* National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. Ottawa: Statistics Canada. (Catalogue *71-542)*

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**Family Expenditures Survey** (After 1997 to be known as the Survey of Household Spending)
DATE:	Biennial since 1953
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION	Statistics Canada, Some Data Liberation Sites including Carleton University.
CONTACT	Statistics Canada, Income Statistics Division, Services Dissemination Unit (613) 951-7355 or (888) 297-7355.
AVAILABILITY:	Public Use Micro Data File available. 1996 data available in 1998.The most recent data file costs $3,000; data for previous years cost $1,500.
FORMAT.-	Flat: ASCII file
MEDIA:	Electronic data file on disk
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Available. Tables based on any question in the questionnaire can be ordered at cost. Most key indicators are in the Public Use Micro Data file, however.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	Households (data is collected on total household spending)
FILE SIZE:	16, 000
DESIGN.	Direct representative sample survey, cross-sectional
METHOD:	Telephone (computer assisted)

C. CONTENT

Key questions ask what expenditures were made as gifts or support payments to non-household members: money given to persons inside/ outside Canada; other gifts. Also what amounts were given as charitable contributions to: religious organizations; other charitable organizations.

Charitable giving can be compared to other and total household expenses as well as various socioeconomic variables such as: tenure (home ownership); income of various sorts and total income; cash in banks; financial assets; occupation; weeks worked; immigrant arrival year; country of birth; household composition.

Data are available for major cities and for provinces.

Data from this survey are used in the compilation of the Consumer Price Index.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Statistics Canada. Family Expenditure in Canada. Catalogue #62-555-XPB. Standard tables, with a few short analytical articles, are published with approximately a two-year lag. Forthcoming issues may be titled: Household Expenditure in Canada as the survey is being renamed.

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**Charitable Donors**
DATE:	Annual, since 1990. The data are created from annual tax files with approximately a 2-year lag.
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEYMANAGER:	Statistics Canada
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT:	Small Area and Administrative Data Division, (613) 951-9720
AVAILABILITY:	Sample tables may be available, on paper, at no cost. Standard tables are available at cost, see details below. Availability is subject to a license agreement as specified in the User Guide.
FORMAT:	Data are offered in ASCII Flat File but every effort will be made to supply data files in the format specified by the client.
MEDIA:	Electronic data file on disk.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Tables for province, municipality or other geographic area can be ordered on a cost recovery basis.

B. SAMPLE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	National, all those who file tax returns in any given year and who declare a tax-deductable charitable donation are entered into the Taxfilers Database. The Charitable Donors Database is created from Line 340 of Canadian tax returns provided by Revenue Canada.
FILE SIZE:	In 1995 there were approximately 9 million income tax returns and 5 million declared donors.

DESIGN: The data are direct counts from tax files. Full data counts are available for all taxfilers. Data are suppressed whenever confidentiality could be compromised.

METHOD: The data are derived from income tax returns each year.

C. CONTENT

This is Canada's primary source of information on charitable donations. The data reveal the number of donors and the average dollar amount donated by: age category, income category, gender and geographic area. Data can be ordered for 12 different levels of geographic unit, from national through provincial, municipal, rural routes, postal codes and postal walks. Various cross-tabulations of these variables are possible, such as income category and age category for major cities.

There are 2 standard tables. Table 1 provides the number of tax filers and of donors; average age, average donation by age category, total donations, median donation and median income of donors. Table 2 provides most of this information further divided by gender and age category. As an indicator, for 1995 data, the cost for one table for Manitoba would be $500.; for Ontario, one table would cost $4,160.

NOTE: These data are taken directly from the income tax files and are not edited. Only taxfilers who retain a receipt and declare their donations are included and only donations to registered charities and a few other organizations are included. Donations can be made in one year but declared in any of the next 5 years. Also, note that comparisons over time will be effected by various changes which erect the population which files income tax returns, in particular, a 1994 change in the threshold at which charitable donations could earn a tax credit.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Totals and median donations for the provinces and groups of taxfilers are provided annually in Statistic's Canada's The Daily.

Jeffrey Frank and Stephen Mihorean, "Who Gives to Charity?" Social Trends. Winter 1996. Statistics Canada Catalogue 11-008-XPE. Charitable donations data is combined with family data.

Daniela Lucaclu, "Charitable Donations" Social Trends Summer, 1992. Statistics Canada Catalogue 11-008-XPE.

The Canadian Centre for Philanthropy: "Donations: The Role of Age and Income" (1991 Data), Research B lu letin 1.2; and "The Ten-Year Trend in Individual Donations: 1984-1994" Research Bulletin 2.5. Both Research Bulletins are available from the Centre and on the web at www.ccp.ca/information/documents.

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**Longitudinal Administrative Database**
DATE:	Annual, data created from annual tax files with approximately a 2-year lag.
SPONSOR:	Statistics Canada
SURVEY MANAGER:	Statistics Canada created a longitudinal database from Canadian T 1 individual tax returns provided by Revenue Canada. The resulting database is the T 1 Family File (TIFF).
LOCATION:	Statistics Canada
CONTACT:	Small Area and Administrative Data Division, (613) 951-9720.
AVAILABILITY:	The actual data can not be accessed directly. However, the data file was designed as a research tool and the Small Area and Administrative Data Division will work with users to determine their needs and produce tables in print or electronic form, and will also interpret the data. The data are made available subject to a licence agreement as specified in the Users' Guide.
FORMAT	Tables are offered in an ASCII flat file but every effort will be made to supply them in the format specified by the client.
MEDIA:	Electronic or paper tables.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Available; longitudinal data starts at $2,000 but once a table is formatted, the cost for additional years' data may be only about $200.00 per year.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION	A nationally representative sample of all persons in the T IFF (T 1 Family File) who have a SIN. This population is somewhat larger than the population of all tax filers (by including their spouses and children).
FILE SIZE:	The 1994 LAD sample was over 2 million, or approximately 10% of all taxfilers.
DESIGN:	The Longitudinal Administrative Database was created from the T1 Family File in 1982. Individuals remain within the sample over several years, as long as they continue to file tax returns, while new filers are also added each year. Census families are formed from the data that filers provide on their spouses and dependents forming the T 1 Family FILE. From this a longitudinal sample is constructed each year as the data become available.
METHOD:	The data derived from income tax returns each year.

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

This database can significantly augment the information available from the Charitable Donors Database often purchased by researchers. The further data on family structure, income structure, and other information in the tax form could be added to the variables available in the Charitable Donations database (see the reference herein). Moreover, changes in who donates could be examined over a significant time span since data have been accumulated since 1982 - using the same individuals where they have continued to file a tax return. The time span covered now allows a study of lifetime dynamics such as the effect of having children or retiring.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

No publications related to donating were located. However Statistics Canada advises that researchers have examined changes over time such as the dynamics of low income Canadians and the transition from low income for female lone-parents.

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**National Registry of Charities**
DATE:	Annual
STONSOR:	
SURYEY MANAGER:	Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
LOCATION:	Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
CONTACT:	Charities Division, *(800) 267-2384*
AVAILABILITY:	The data file can be ordered at a cost of approximately *$500.*
FORMAT:	ASCII flat file.
MEDIA:	The electronic data file is available on computer disk.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom electronic data or custom tables may be available. Custom tables or data should be requested in writing.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION:	All Canadian Registered Charitable Organizations who file a tax return in a given year.
FILE SIZE:	In *1998* approximately *76,000* charities were registered.
DESIGN	Each year the data are derived from Organizational Registered Charity T3010 tax returns.
METHOD:	The data are derived from income tax returns each year.

C: CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

Tables can be ordered to show the top 25 revenue earners in a particular region or field, as one example, or to calculate average or segmented revenues, or revenues from specific sources, such as donations or fees, or to estimate trends in income or income by source or other economic activities. The T130 Return also asks for information on assets, liabilities, salaries paid, and volunteer hours and donations from individuals, corporations and other sources.

Revenue Canada definitions are provided in a users' guide, Your *Guide to the Charity Return*. Charities are categorized by sector: Religious; Benefits to the Community; Welfare; Health; Education; and Other.

NOTE: Researchers have documented many problems with this vital data, for example: charities are only assigned one category although they may operate in several fields; the category they are assigned to is the one they specified when first becoming a registered charity; foundations are included with other charities which can result in double-counting money which flows through foundations; over half the main category of service providers, welfare organizations, are listed in the "other" category. Furthermore, many charities do not complete all of the information; some do not file regularly; and many provide information which has mathematical errors. (See the Appendices in Sharpe, 1994; and in Day and Devlin, 1997).

D: PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Day, Kathleen and Rose Anne Devlin, 1997 The Canadian Nonprofit Sector. Otttawa: CPRN, (available from Renouf Publishers).

Sharpe, D. 1994. A Portrait of Canada's Charities: The size, scope, and financing of registered charities, Toronto: Canadian Centre for Philanthropy.

PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DATA FILES RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE:	**Tax Statistics on Individuals**
DATE:	Annual, with about a two-year lag.
SPONSOR:	
SURVEY MANAGER:	Canada Custom and Revenue Agency publishes printed tables annually based on T1 individual tax returns of all Canadians.
LOCATIONS:	Canada Custom and Revenue Agency produces printed tables and posts the tables on its website: www.rc.gc.ca/pts/.
CONTACT	Statistics Division, (613) 957-7387
AVAILABILITY:	Standard and custom tables are available.
FORMAT:	
MEDIA:	Tables are available in published form, on the website, or by diskette. The data files on the diskette are comma separated, in a matrix with no headings. The cost for a diskette is $27.00.
CUSTOM ANALYSES:	Custom data, including data by census area, can be ordered from Revenue Canada. However, in general, Revenue Canada does not disseminate the Charitable Donations data. Revenue Canada provides the charitable donations data to Statistics Canada who produce. the Charitable Donations File, from which custom tables can be ordered at a cost.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION	All Canadian Individual taxfilers.
FILE SIZE:	350,000
DESIGN	*A* sample of *350,000* is created by dividing the entire population which files an individual T 1 tax returns in a given year into *1,050* socio-economic levels based on income, place of residence and other factors. Samples were drawn from each category.
METHOD:	

C. CONTENT

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

From the tables one can determine the number of donations and total dollar amount of allowed donations for all taxfilers as well as for various subcategories such as: gender; age categories; province and territory; income category.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Day, Kathleen and Rose Anne Devlin, The Canadian Nonprofit Sector. Ottawa: Canadian Policy Research Networks, available from Renouf Publishers.

A. IDENTIFICATION

TITLE: **World Values Survey**

DATE: 1981-84; 1990-93
Most national surveys were completed in *1981* and *1990;* some countries completed there surveys in later years.
For Canada: *1981* (month unspecified for the first wave)
1990 May- June

SPONSOR: Each country's survey was supported by different institutional sponsors.

SURVEYMANAGER: Different for each country; the Gallup network, performsthe fieldwork in most countries. Canada: Gallup Canada (Toronto) One or more principal investigators acted in each country as a member of the World Values Study Group. For Canada the principal investigators were Neil Nevitte, University of Toronto, and Ronald Inglehart, University of Michigan.

LOCATION: The ICPSR version of the datafile is produced and distributed by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) of Ann Arbor, Michigan (Email: www.icpsr.umich.edu). Some Canadian universities are members of the consortium and may provide access to the data~for their faculty and students. In addition, some questions, compiled variables and data for European countries is available at the Zeus website: http://zeus.mzes.uni-mannheim.de/news

CONTACT. The lead Canadian researcher, Neil Nevitte, can be contacted through the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto: Tel: *(416) 978-6298;* Fax: *(416) 978-5566;* Email: nnevitte@chass.utoronto.ca./.
For information on availability to faculty and students of Carleton University, contact Carleton University Data Archivist, Wendy Watson, www.carletoij.ca/-ssd.ata/. To find the contacts for other Data Liberation sites search: datalib.ualberta.ca.

AVAILABILITY: The ICPSR version of the datafile is produced and distributed by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) of Ann Arbor, Michigan (Email: -8v.cpsrsumich.edu
Also try the Consortium member university contacts listed above.

FORMAT. Logical Record Length with SAS and SPSS data definition statements (379 variables). Documentation in Microsoft Word 5.0 included on Disk.

MEDIA: Different media may be available from different sources; ICPSR may FTP the data or provide a disk.

CUSTOM ANALYSES: Only the electronic data file can be accessed; there are no printed tables nor are custom analyses available.

B. SAMPLE SIZE AND DESIGN

POPULATION: Representative of the national adult population, age 18 years and older, in private households in the ten provinces.

FILE SIZE: Canada: 1,250 (1981); 1700 (1990)

DESIGN: Stratified, multi-stage random sampling with random selection of sampling locations and of individuals.

METHOD: Face-to-face interviews.

C. CONTENT

Between 1990 and 1993, 43 countries, representing almost 70% of the world's population, participated in an expanded version of the Values Survey developed by the European Values Study Group. Responses of different national populations can be compared on almost all variables. Also responses to many questions, which were replicated in the two waves of the survey, can be compared for the 22 countries, including Canada, which were surveyed in both 1981 and 1990. The data collection is designed to enable cross-national comparison of values and norms in a wide variety of areas and to monitor changes in public values and attitudes in many countries.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTENT AREAS RELEVANT TO THE NONPROFIT SECTOR:

Respondents were asked whether they belonged to any of a list of organizations and whether the) did any unpaid, voluntary work for any of those organizations. Fifteen types of organizations were listed including `social welfare' and `community action'. Respondents were then asked whether a variety of reasons influenced their participation. The 14 listed reasons include: solidarity, compassion, useful experience, community contribution, social change. A measure of importance is available for each reason. These reasons can be associated with type of organization as well as other survey indicators such as the number of organizations one volunteers for, socio-demographic variables and other attitudes and activities.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

Broad topics covered deal with work; the meaning and purpose of life, family life and-social issues. Respondents rate the importance, in their lives, of various values and activities; indicate their satisfaction levels and their views on work, their job, political matters and confidence in institutions. Other variables which could be examined for their relationship with volunteering include: why people live in need; reasons for choosing a job; beliefs; whether one was raised religious; how religion helps one; moral values and decisions; political affiliation, family structure, relations with spouse, and post-materialist values.

D. PUBLISHED ANALYSES

Analyses abound with a preliminary list of more than 20 included on the disk. Among the leading works with an international or Canadian focus are the following:

Ronald Inglehart, Neil Nevitte and Miguel Basanez. Cultural Change in North America? Closer Economic Political and Cultural Ties between the United States. Canada and Mexico, forthcoming.

Neil Nevitte. The Decline of Deference. Toronto: Broadview Press, 1996.

Ron Inglehart. Culture Shift in Advanced Industrial Society. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1996.